

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 VO-03 SCA-01 OC-06 CCO-00

L-03 RSR-01 RSC-01 /066 W

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R 101045Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6698

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 00838

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU,US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BULGARIA

POLICY

REF: HELSINKI 1810

1. SUMMARY. EMB BELIEVES GOB MAY BE UNDER PRESSURE TO AT LEAST APPEAR MORE ACTIVE IN DETENTE AND ESPECIALLY WITH US. WE SUGGEST EMB BE AUTHORIZED FOLLOW UP MLADENOV INVITATION TO SECRETARY WITH PROPOSAL THAT BOTH SIDES ACT NOW TO REMOVE MINOR IRRITANTS IN RELATIONS AND PREPARE WAY FOR CONCLUSION OF SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS. OUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED AT CONCRETE STEPS TO IMPROVE US-BULGARIAN RELATIONS RATHER THAN ON COSMETIC IMPROVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN EMBOFFS AND SUBEV AND DAMYANOV OF MFA 8TH DEPT, AS WELL AS JUST ENDED PODGORNÝ VISIT HERE (SOFIA 835) SUGGEST GOB UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN DETENTE (OR AT LEAST APPEAR SO) AND MORE FORTHCOMING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH US. WE BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE FOR EMB TO FOLLOW UP AT EARLY DATE MLADENOV INVITATION TO SECRETARY WITH AIM OF REMOVING AS MANY MINOR IRRITANTS TO US-BULGAR RELATIONS AS POSSIBLE PRIOR TO SECRETARY'S  
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VISIT AND ENSURING THAT CONSULAR CONVENTION READY TO

BE SIGNED DURING VISIT. GOB PROBABLY UNDER-  
STANDS FROM SECRETARY'S VISITS TO PRAGUE THIS YEAR AND  
BUDAPEST AND BUCHAREST LAST YEAR THAT CONCLUSION OF  
CONSULAR CONVENTION IS MINIMUM ACCOMPLISHMENT OF SUCH  
VISIT.

3. AMONG MATTERS WHICH EMB WISHES SETTLE WITH GOB  
IN ADVANCE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT ARE:

- (A) MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS FOR NON-DIPLOMATIC STAFF
- (B) CLEARANCE OF UNACCOMPANIED POUCHES ON DAY OF ARRIVAL.

4. DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE MOVE  
THE BULGARIANS CLOSER TO ACCEPTANCE OF FREER EXCHANGE  
OF IDEAS AND PERSONS, WHETHER WITH OR WITHOUT  
CULTURAL AGREEMENT, AND TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE  
DESIRABILITY OF MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE IN EXIT VISA  
MATTERS. TO THIS END, EMB PROPOSES IT BE AUTHORIZED  
TO INITIATE DIALOGUE WITH MFA ON THESE TOPICS WHICH  
SECRETARY WOULD WISH DISCUSS DURING VISIT.

5. DEPT MAY WISH SUGGEST OTHER POINTS EMB SHOULD  
RAISE WITH GOB IN PREPARATION FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT.  
WHILE WE DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD ASK BULGARS DO GREAT  
DEAL MORE THAN OTHER COUNTRIES AS "PRICE" FOR VISIT,  
WE ARE MINDFUL THAT BULGARIA MORE THAN OTHER EE  
COUNTRIES HAS KEPT ITS DISTANCE FROM US. SECRETARY'S  
VISIT HERE, ALTHOUGH COMING AFTER HE HAS VISITED ALL  
OTHER EE COUNTRIES, LIKELY HAVE MORE POLITICAL SYMBOLISM  
THAN HIS OTHER VISITS EXCEPT PERHAPS TO PRAGUE.

6. EMB WOULD ALSO SOLICIT SUGGESTIONS FROM GOB OF  
TOPICS THEY FEEL SUITABLE FOR DISCUSSION. WE WOULD,  
HOWEVER, MAINTAIN POSITION THAT DETAILED ECONOMIC QUESTIONS  
WOULD HAVE BE DISCUSSED AT LATER DATE IN WASHINGTON.

7. PLEASE ADVISE RE PROPOSED EMB FOLLOW-UP WITH MFA.  
PLEASE ALSO FORWARD TEXT OF CONSULAR CONVENTION SIGNED IN  
PRAGUE.  
HOUSTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 HELSINKI 1810  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <06-Nov-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BULGARIA POLICY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BU, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005